

Register 18th July 07.

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THE LATE DR. D. PATON.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

At Chalmers Church, where the late Dr. D. Paton had carried on his ministry for nearly 30 years, the Rev. G. Davidson, M.A., conducted a memorial service on Sunday morning. There was a large congregation, among which were two sons of the deceased.

Mr. Davidson took his text from Rev. xxii. 4—"And they shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads." He said two things occurred to him when he thought of Dr. Paton. The first was that he had a large and tender heart. Like all men of that kind, he often tried to hide it, but it would not be hidden. For any one to appeal to his sympathy was to win him so long as no sacrifice of principle was involved. It was not his nature to take a hard and narrow view of anything or anybody, and this made him peculiarly adapted for the work of the Christian ministry. The relation between a minister and his people, especially in the Presbyterian Church, was entirely a question of sympathy. As a servant of God over an established congregation a Presbyterian minister lived and largely did his work on sympathy. It was not his intellect alone nor his scholarship, nor mental culture, pronounced as all these were in Dr. Paton's life, but his power of sympathy, his open heart. While his large and tender heart made him a good servant of God it also exposed him to the tear and wear of life. That always happened with men of his stamp. It was impossible to imagine any pastor and people so thoroughly at one as never to have any little misunderstandings, but it was something to record that after 29 years of work Dr. Paton was their honoured and well-beloved minister to the day of his death. The second thought was Dr. Paton's constant optimism. He was an idealist alike in his philosophy and in religion. There was an idealism that could only see "within the green the withered leaf and towns fallen as soon as built." But he saw differently. He saw the imperishable types of things and of human character in their imperfect concrete form. He tried to see what men were aiming at even in their differences. He was no fighter except when a great principle was at stake, and then he could fight. For the most part, however, his was altogether too gentle a nature to respond to any and every battle cry. Mr. Davidson said he need not refer to matters outside Dr. Paton's special ministry. Chalmers Church got his best, its people were his people, and he carried on his heart their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, to the end. The people would miss him, perhaps more so as years passed than at present. The church would miss him, and others outside the church. But his life had not been in vain. His long ministry had brought comfort and encouragement to many hearts. There no doubt were some present who had they known when they last saw Dr. Paton in the pulpit that he was not to come again would have pressed his hand and thanked him for his word, for his sympathy, for his gentleness. But that might be done hereafter. Until then let them be steadfast, immovable, knowing that their labour was not in vain in the Lord.

The Rev. G. Davidson again spoke eulogistically of the life and ministry of Dr. Paton at the evening service in the Flinders Street Church. Sympathetic references were made in several other churches, and the "Dead march" in "Saul" was played.

THE LATE DR. PATON.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Memorial services in connection with the death of Dr. Paton were held in Adelaide on Sunday. In the majority of the city churches reference was made to the esteem in which the late minister of the Chalmers Church was held.

Preaching to a large congregation at a memorial service in Chalmers Church on Sunday morning, the Rev. George Davidson said that two things came to his mind when thinking of Dr. Paton. First, he had a kind heart. He tried to hide it, but it could not be hidden. It was constantly coming out in spite of himself. So much so was this the case, that for anyone to appeal straight to his sympathy was to win it, so long, of course, as there was no sacrifice of principle involved. And he was a broad-minded man. It was not in his nature to take a hard and narrow vein of anything or anybody. This made him particularly adapted to the work of the Christian ministry. And with his sympathy was a great sensitiveness, a willingness to be appealed to in all matters where the healing-power of sympathy was the only balm. But, while his large and tender heart made him a good servant of God, it also exposed him to the tear and wear of life. It was always so with men of his stamp. It was impossible to imagine any pastor and people so thoroughly at one as were they at Chalmers Church, and it was something to be able to record that, after 29 years of work among them, Dr. Paton was their honored and well-beloved minister up to the day of his death. The second thought that occurred to him was Dr. Paton's optimism. He always tried to see things in their best light. Alike in philosophy and religion, he was an idealist. There was an idealism that could only see "within the green the withered leaf, and towers fallen as soon as built." Dr. Paton saw differently. He tried to understand what men were aiming at, even in their differences. He was a peacemaker. He was no fighter, unless some great principle was at stake. Then he could fight. They would all miss him—miss him more as the years went on, perhaps, than they did today. His life had not been in vain. His long ministry had brought comfort and encouragement to many hearts. There were some there, without a doubt, who, if they had known when they last saw him in his pulpit that he was not to come again, would have pressed his hand and thanked him for his word, for his sympathy, for his gentleness.

At the evening service in the Flinders-street Presbyterian Church the Rev. George Davidson also conducted a memorial service.

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MR. DAVID MURRAY'S ESTATE.

GIFTS TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

LONDON, February 17.

The will of Mr. David Murray, formerly of Adelaide, has been proved, the net personalty having been sworn at £200,579.

For charitable, religious, and other purposes £16,000 is bequeathed, including £3,000 for the establishment of a print-room in the Adelaide Art Gallery, £5,000 to the Presbyterian Church, £2,000 to the Adelaide University, £1,000 to the South Australian School of Mines, and £1,000 to the Adelaide Young Men's Christian Association.

The remainder of the estate is left to

ADVANCED COMMERCIAL COURSE.

To the Editor.

Sir—The recognition of the advantages of technical education is apparent in the increased attention being paid to it the world over, and it is significant that those countries offering the greatest facilities in this direction are in the van of commercial progress. There has been a rather tardy awakening to this fact in the British Empire, but the leading statesmen now affirm that the progress of the Empire, and a thorough system of technical education must go hand in hand, so that the leading educational institutions have been compelled by the pressure of public opinion to add to their curriculum an efficient course of training in commercial subjects. Some universities have gone the length of establishing a degree in commerce. The University authorities here have shown a proper appreciation of the position in the establishment of evening classes under competent professors, where for moderate fees the young men of this State may acquire valuable instruction, calculated to equip them for positions of trust and responsibility; and many of our commercial houses and banks make a point of selecting for advancement those who have been successful in passing the university examinations. There is, however, a feeling in the minds of the students and of others who might become students that the comprehensive course of instruction provided might be made much more attractive than it now is, by the authorities conferring on those who pass the necessary examinations a diploma or associateship, as a supplement to the possession of the advanced commercial certificate. Young men who go through a long course of arduous study, involving hard work and sacrifice of social engagements for a period of four years, surely earn some distinguishing badge.—I am &c.

STUDENT.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The new session at the Elder Conservatorium will commence on Tuesday, March 5, and new students should present themselves for examination on Monday, March 4. Full information may be obtained from the registrar at the University.